

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6072

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 0230

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, ASEC, TW
SUBJECT: TAIWAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (TPLF) TRIAL

REF: TAIPEI 7587

1. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS YESTERDAY AND TODAY ANNOUNCED THE CONCLUSION OF THE TPLF TRIAL AT AN "OPEN" SESSION OF THE MILITARY COURT ON JANUARY 11. THE SIX ACCUSED REPORTEDLY ALL PLEADED GUILTY. BUT "LEGAL EXPERTS" QUOTED IN THE PRESS DOUBTED ANY WOULD BE SENTENCED TO DEATH. DATE OF SENTENCING HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED.

2. IT APPEARS THAT EMBASSY REQUESTS TO MOFA AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLICE TO HAVE AN EMBASSY OBSERVER AT THE TRIAL (SEE REFTTEL) WERE SIMPLY STONEWALLED. MOFA TODAY TOLD US THAT THEY WERE "SURPRISED" TO SEE NEWS OF THE TRIAL'S CONCLUSION IN THE PAPERS. MOFA UNDERTOOK TO CONTACT THE GARRISON COMMAND FOR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY WE WERE NOT INFORMED OF THE DISPOSITION OF OUR REQUEST BEFORE THE TRIAL, AND WAS TOLD BY THE GARRISON COMMAND THAT THEY SIMPLY "FORGOT" TO INFORM MOFA. EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED OUR DISPLEASURE AND REITERATED OUR REQUEST TO HAVE AN OBSERVER AT THE SENTENCING. WE ARE PROTESTING TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY BUREAU AS WELL WHICH APPARENTLY ALSO "FORGOT" OUR REQUEST. POL COUNS WILL ALSO EXPRESS OUR
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DISPLEASURE TO MOFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS CHIEF THIS EVENING.

3. THE PRESS REPORTED (AND WE HAVE CONFIRMED) THAT AMONG THE "SOME 100 PEOPLE" AT THE TRIAL WERE FOREIGN NEWS AGENCY REPORTERS: I.E., REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR WIRE SERVICES (AP, UPI, REUTERS, AND AFP), AND LOCAL STRINGER FOR THE NEW

YORK TIMES AND ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL, AND THE LOCAL STRINGER FOR TIME. EXCEPT FOR THE TIME STRINGER WHO IS AMERICAN, THE REST ARE CHINESE. WE BELIEVE THAT ALL OF THEM ARE "FRIENDLY" TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(FYI: THE MORE INDEPENDENT STRINGER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST AND NEWSWEEK WAS NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDED DESPITE HER REQUEST TO ATTEND).
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Message Attributes

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